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King County residents face potential power outages

BPA seeks public comment on transmission project

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Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, Sept. 14, 2000

PR 71 00

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MAPLE VALLEY, Wash. – Within two to three years, electricity demand in King County will be so great that even minor power line outages during a cold snap, or during peak use periods, could cause a complete loss of power in the King County area, according to the Bonneville Power Administration's forecasts. Such potential disruptions could develop as early as the winter of 2002-03.

To head off the problem, BPA is considering options for a transmission system upgrade in the area and it wants to involve the public in its planning.

A public meeting is being held on Wednesday, Sept. 20 for the public to ask questions and offer comments about BPA's plans. The meeting is scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Maple Valley Community Center, 22010 SE 248th St.

BPA is proposing to build a transmission line in central King County. A new 500-kilovolt (kV) line would connect an existing transmission line near the community of Kangley with Echo Lake Substation, located near the junction of I-90 and Hwy 18. The new line would be about nine miles long. Several locations are being considered for the new line. Building no line is included in the list of options.

Citizens asked BPA in a public meeting in April to identify and study options that would avoid the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. BPA developed three possible options to address that request and these will be on display at Wednesday's public meeting.

While there will be no formal presentations, BPA project team members will be at the meeting to answer questions. If the meeting schedule is inconvenient, citizens still can learn more about the project at the web site: www.efw.bpa.gov. They can also comment on the project by calling BPA's toll-free comment line at 800-622-4519. When leaving a message be sure to include the name of the project – Kangley – Echo Lake Transmission Project. Citizens can also send their comments to comment@bpa.gov; or they can mail their comments to BPA, Public Affairs Officer – KC-7, PO Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212.

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